

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital camera comprising:

an image pickup block;

a mechanism control block which controls the image pickup  
block mechanically;

5 an operation block which inputs a user operation; and

a processing block which applies processing to an image,  
the processing block including a detecting unit which detects  
an activation request for the digital camera, and a

communication control unit which performs processing for  
10 establishing a network connection with a file server upon  
detection of the activation request.

2. A digital camera comprising:

an image pickup block;

15 a mechanism control block which controls the image pickup  
block mechanically;

an operation block which inputs a user operation; and

a processing block which applies processing to an image,  
the processing block including a detecting unit which detects  
20 an image pickup request, and a communication control unit  
which performs processing for transmitting an image obtained  
by image pickup to a file server over a network upon  
obtainment of the image.

3. A digital camera comprising:

an image pickup block;

a mechanism control block which controls the image pickup

5 block mechanically;

an operation block which inputs a user operation; and

a processing block which applies processing to an image,

the processing block including a detecting unit which detects

an image reproduction request, a communication control unit

10 which performs processing which receives an image to be

reproduced from a file server over a network when the image

reproduction request is detected, and a reproduction

processing unit which reproduces the image received from the

file server.

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4. The digital camera according to claim 1, further

comprising: a memory card control unit which controls a memory

card when an option slot is loaded with the memory card; and a

card identification unit which identifies a card loaded in the

20 option slot, and wherein

when the option slot is loaded with a memory card, the

memory card control unit performs image storing and read with

the memory card as a recording medium, and

when the option slot is loaded with a communication card,

25 the communication control unit performs image storing and read

via the communication card with the file server as a recording medium.

5. The digital camera according to claim 2, further

5 comprising: a memory card control unit which controls a memory card when an option slot is loaded with the memory card; and a card identification unit which identifies a card loaded in the option slot, and wherein

when the option slot is loaded with a memory card, the  
10 memory card control unit performs image storing and read with the memory card as a recording medium, and

when the option slot is loaded with a communication card,  
the communication control unit performs image storing and read  
via the communication card with the file server as a recording  
15 medium.

6. The digital camera according to claim 3, further

comprising: a memory card control unit which controls a memory card when an option slot is loaded with the memory card; and a  
20 card identification unit which identifies a card loaded in the option slot, and wherein

when the option slot is loaded with a memory card, the  
memory card control unit performs image storing and read with  
the memory card as a recording medium, and

25 when the option slot is loaded with a communication card,

the communication control unit performs image storing and read via the communication card with the file server as a recording medium.

- 5     7. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising: a buffer memory; and a buffer processing unit which saves an image to the buffer memory when transmission of the image to the file server fails.
- 10    8. The digital camera according to claim 2, further comprising: a buffer memory; and a buffer processing unit which saves an image to the buffer memory when transmission of the image to the file server fails.
- 15    9. The digital camera according to claim 3, further comprising: a buffer memory; and a buffer processing unit which saves an image to the buffer memory when transmission of the image to the file server fails.
- 20    10. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising: a buffer memory; and a buffer processing unit which reads an image already saved in the buffer memory, if any, when an image obtained by shooting is transmitted to the file server, and wherein
- 25            the communication control unit transmits the image read

by the buffer processing unit and the image obtained by shooting to the file server in a predetermined order.

11. The digital camera according to claim 2, further

5 comprising: a buffer memory; and a buffer processing unit which reads an image already saved in the buffer memory, if any, when an image obtained by shooting is transmitted to the file server, and wherein

the communication control unit transmits the image read  
10 by the buffer processing unit and the image obtained by shooting to the file server in a predetermined order.

12. The digital camera according to claim 3, further

comprising: a buffer memory; and a buffer processing unit  
15 which reads an image already saved in the buffer memory, if any, when an image obtained by shooting is transmitted to the file server, and wherein

the communication control unit transmits the image read  
by the buffer processing unit and the image obtained by  
20 shooting to the file server in a predetermined order.

13. The digital camera according to claim 1, further

comprising a buffer memory, and wherein

the communication control unit performs processing for  
25 transmitting an image saved in the buffer memory, if any, to

the file server when the network connection with the file server is established in accordance with the activation request.

5 14. A digital camera comprising:  
an image pickup block;  
a mechanism control block which controls the image pickup  
block mechanically;  
an operation block which inputs a user operation; and  
10 a processing block which applies processing to an image,  
the processing block including  
a buffer memory for an image to be saved to,  
a communication control unit which transmits an image  
saved in the buffer memory to a file server upon activation of  
15 the digital camera when an option slot is loaded with a  
communication card, and  
a memory card control unit which transfers and storing an  
image saved in the buffer memory into a memory card upon  
activation of the digital camera when the option slot is  
20 loaded with a memory card.

15. The digital camera according to claim 14, wherein at least  
either one of the communication control unit and the memory  
card control unit starts processing after an explicit user  
25 instruction for image storing is given.

16. A method of controlling a digital camera, comprising:  
detecting an activation request for a digital camera; and  
establishing a network connection between the digital  
5 camera and a file server upon detection of the activation  
request.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising  
transmitting an image, if any, saved in a buffer memory to the  
10 file server after the network connection between the digital  
camera and the file server is established.

18. A method of controlling a digital camera, comprising:  
detecting an image pickup request for a digital camera;  
15 and  
performing processing for transmitting an image obtained  
by image pickup to a file server over a network upon  
obtainment of the image.

20 19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising  
checking the digital camera for the presence or absence of a  
recording device for storing an image, and wherein  
if the recording device is present, the image obtained by  
image pickup is stored into the recording device instead of  
25 being transmitted to the file server.

20. The method according to claim 18, further comprising saving the image obtained by image pickup to a buffer memory when the transmission of the image to the file server fails.

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21. The method according to claim 18, further comprising transmitting an image, if any, saved in a buffer memory to the file server before the image obtained by image pickup.

10 22. The method according to claim 18, further comprising transmitting an image, if any, saved in a buffer memory to the file server after the image obtained by image pickup.

23. A method of controlling a digital camera, comprising:

15 detecting an image reproduction request for a digital camera; and

performing processing for receiving an image to be reproduced from a file server over a network when the image reproduction request is detected.

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24. A method of controlling a digital camera, comprising:

checking a digital camera for the presence or absence of at least one among a buffer memory intended for temporarily image retention, a recording device intended for more

25 permanent image retention, and a communication unit which



makes a file server retain an image over a network;

designating a storing destination of an image obtained by  
image pickup depending on the check result; and

storing the image obtained by image pickup into the  
5 storing destination designated.

25. A method of controlling a digital camera, comprising:

an activation process for establishing a network  
connection between a digital camera and a file server upon  
10 detection of an activation request;

an image pickup process for performing processing for  
transmitting an image obtained by image pickup to the file  
server over a network upon obtainment of the image; and

an image reproduction process for performing processing  
15 for receiving an image to be reproduced from the file server  
upon detection of an image reproduction request.

26. A method of controlling a digital camera, comprising:

detecting a predetermined operation not directly intended  
20 for image storing; and

transferring an image saved in a buffer memory of a  
digital camera to a recording apparatus more permanent than  
the buffer memory when the predetermined operation is detected.

25 27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the

predetermined operation is one of an activation operation and a shooting operation of the digital camera.

28. A file server comprising a communication unit and a  
5 control unit, the control unit including:

a file management unit which stores an image file when the communication unit receives the image file over a network; and

a reproduction processing unit which reproduces the image  
10 file for screen display upon reception of the image file.